

Message From Acting Director William P. Robertson

The May 2018 water main break at the Rend Lake Conservancy District in southern Illinois serves as a perfect example of the impact private-public partnerships can have on a community.

The mid-May water main break disrupted water service to more than 160,000 residents in several counties and prompted a state disaster proclamation for the affected areas. As with any water main break, once the break is repaired, proper testing must be done to ensure water is safe for consumption and that can delay normal water consumption for several days. This strain can be felt not only in a family household, but throughout communities via small businesses and schools.



Through the Governor's activation of the State Emergency Operations Center in Springfield, emergency officials were able to coordinate support from non-governmental organizations (NGO) and the private sector to add three semi truckloads of water, 22 pallets of water, and 3,000 cases of water to the two truckloads of water procured by the state. Countless companies offered assistance to this relief effort, some of which requested to remain anonymous, while others donated directly to the local level.

"Public-private partnerships allow our state to better serve our neighbors when responding to emergencies," said acting Director William Robertson. "By working together, we can overcome obstacles by utilizing tools and various resources in a quick and timely manner. I personally want to thank those companies and organizations that stepped up to the plate to help our communities in a time of need."

Finally, none of this would be possible without the support and coordination of our Business Emergency Operations Center. This group of hard working individuals provides logistical information during an emergency to ensure donations and supplies arrive at designated staging areas in a timely manner. Because of these partnerships, both in the private and public sector, we continue to improve not only our state's response efforts, but also enhance a community's quest to bounce back from a disaster.

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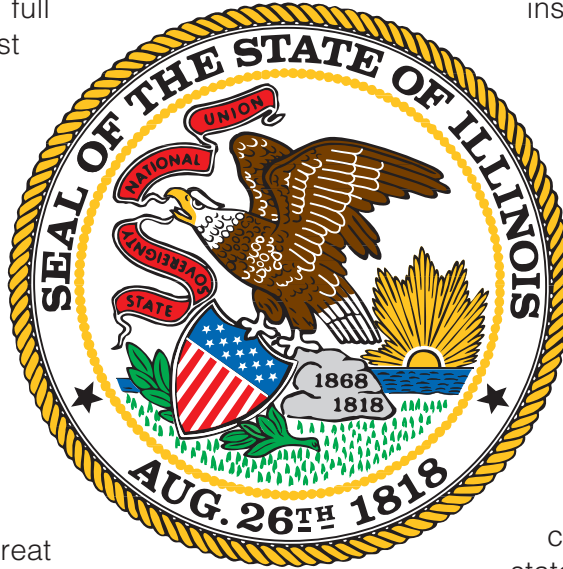
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FY19 State Budget Update

The General Assembly passed a full year FY19 state budget on the last day of May and the Governor signed shortly thereafter.

IEMA's budget passed as recommended by the Governor in his introduced budget. This is good news as the budget includes both \$2 million for deposit into the Disaster Response and Recovery Fund (DRRF) and \$2.5 million for homeland security related projects.

The \$2 million for the DRRF is a great investment in the state's preparedness,



insuring that adequate funds are immediately available for response to disasters. Meanwhile, \$2.5 million will be used for homeland security-related unmet needs as identified in a report from the Illinois Terrorism Task Force.

Continual reductions in federal homeland security funds, as well as a narrow scope of eligibility, makes state-funded investments critical to the strength of our statewide mutual aid systems.

IEMA Staff Tours Dresden Generating Station

In May 2018, several agency employees visited Exelon's Dresden Generating Station in Morris, IL. Staff members donned hard hats for a tour of the nuclear reactors, control room and GEMS reporting site. Tours like these provide our radiological liaisons and senior staff an overview of a typical nuclear power plant. Mark Porfiro, the resident inspector for Dresden, conducted the tour and pointed out various systems that are important to our agency's response. This tour generated invaluable first-hand experience for our staff to learn more about the tests and reporting

the agency conducts to ensure our state is safe, secure and resilient against all hazards.

The Dresden Generating Station has two nuclear reactors that generate more than 1,800 megawatts of energy, serving approximately 1.5 million homes in northern Illinois. The site is also home to the first privately funded commercial nuclear power plant – decommissioned in 1978 and now serves as a Nuclear Historic Landmark by the American Nuclear Society.



IEMA staff travels to Dresden Station for first-hand look inside Exelon's Morris facility. Pictured: Director William Robertson, Sarah Plinski, Brett Cox, Jane Hewitt, Brian Hummel, Kim Rogers, Greg Wos, Mark Zallis, Jill Arnez, Adam Ekstedt

July Preparedness Topic is Radiation Safety

While the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is widely recognized for its efforts in emergency preparedness and response to events such as floods, tornadoes and blizzards, the agency also administers more than two dozen nuclear and radiation safety programs that help protect public health and safety and the environment by preventing unnecessary exposure to ionizing radiation, whether naturally-occurring or man-made.

Licensing

Each day in Illinois, thousands of people undergo medical procedures involving x-rays or radioactive materials. These diagnostic or therapeutic procedures are often critical for saving lives. Yet the radiation used can be harmful if equipment isn't functioning properly or personnel aren't adequately trained on the machines or in administering radioactive materials. IEMA works to ensure that these procedures are safe by licensing and inspecting more than 600 radioactive materials licensees and 34,500 radiation-producing machines, 350 mammography facilities and accrediting more than 14,000 medical radiological technologists.

Awareness

IEMA also promotes awareness of radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas found in soil throughout Illinois. Radon, the second-leading cause of lung cancer, can seep into homes through tiny cracks in the foundation, around sump pumps and other avenues. Because radon is colorless, odorless and tasteless, the only way to know if your home has high levels is to conduct a test. Residents can buy radon test kits and conduct the test themselves or hire a radon measurement professional. IEMA licenses radon measurement and mitigation professionals to ensure they have the right knowledge and skills for the job.

Nuclear Power

With 11 operating nuclear power reactors at six sites, Illinois is home to the most commercial nuclear power of any state in the U.S.; therefore, nuclear safety is a top priority for the state of Illinois. IEMA maintains a robust remote monitoring system around each of the reactors. It is an advanced, integrated, computer-based system that continually monitors selected plant operational parameters and is capable of identifying and measuring the presence of radioactive materials in the surrounding environment. IEMA also collects a variety of sample types in the environs of each nuclear power station that are analyzed in IEMA's radiochemistry laboratory. All of this information is analyzed by experts and can be used to develop protective action recommendations for the public following an incident.

A comprehensive emergency plan, known as the Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents, has been developed for each of the six operating plants. The plan details actions local and state response organizations will take to protect the public during a nuclear power plant incident. The plan for each plant is practiced every two years through a graded exercise evaluated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

People who live within a 10-mile radius of each nuclear power plant, known as an Emergency Planning Zone, receive information each year from owner of the nuclear power stations containing information about their local plants and emergency information, such as evacuation routes and radio stations that will broadcast emergency instructions during an incident.

For more information about IEMA's radiation safety programs, visit the Ready Illinois website at www.Ready.Illinois.gov.



Illinois Emergency Management Agency is responsible for protecting Illinois residents from the potentially harmful effects of radiation.

School Safety – Enhancing Communications Between Schools & Law Enforcement

As of May 2018, national media outlets had reported 23 school shootings where someone was hurt or killed. That averages out to more than one shooting a week in the United States. With this startling statistic in mind, the McHenry County Emergency Management Agency organized a School Violence Symposium. Billed as a “thought provoking discussion among Police Chiefs, Deputy Police Chiefs, School Resource Officers with School Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents on the prevention of school violence.” The meeting was described as a great first step to help increase collaboration between schools and local first responders, including police and fire.



Staff from IEMA Region 3 assisted and attended this meeting, as did Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) Chairman, Mike Chamness. Among the items discussed were recommendations of the ITTF's School Safety Working Group, which were presented to Governor Rauner in April 2018. These 13 practical recommendations come after countless hours of meetings with the goal of creating a blueprint that will help make Illinois schools even safer in the event of an active shooter emergency.

The School Safety Working Group is comprised of local law enforcement professionals, Illinois State Police, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, representatives of campus emergency management, campus police, the School Resource Officers Association and representatives of statewide school associations.

Additional training is available to address this growing concern.

The 2018 School and Campus Security Training Program offers training for public and non-public schools, law enforcement, first responders and local emergency management agencies. The program is funded through state Homeland Security Grants and offers preparedness level training to enhance an organizations capacity to plan for, respond to, and recover from an emergency or disaster.

For more information about the program: <https://www2.illinois.gov/ready/plan/Documents/SchoolCampusSecurityTrainingCourses.pdf>

Ready to Help - Fayette County Renovates EMA Operations Center

State and local leaders were on hand to unveil renovations to the Fayette County Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Operations Center. Officials utilized a \$9,000 grant from IEMA and an additional \$20,000 grant from Dakota Pipeline to overhaul the facility with new paint, carpet, computers, and office equipment.

“Emergency Operation Centers are the central command post responsible for carrying out the duties of emergency preparedness and disaster response,” said Acting Director William Robertson. “Ensuring that these facilities are equipped to face today’s challenges is key to the success of any emergency operation.”



Members of the Fayette County EMA office pose with members of the Chamber of Commerce during an official ribbon cutting of the Fayette County Emergency Operations Center.

Plug & Play Training

On May 8 & 9, 2018, IEMA sponsored a communications training and exercise session (also known as a "Plug & Play") at the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) headquarters in Urbana. Here, various assets from multiple agencies were brought in to train on new technologies and exercise the integration of different communications assets. Participants included various Illinois Transportable Emergency Communications System (ITECS) and Unified Command Post (UCP) teams from around the state.

These teams bring a wide range of communications resources to an incident or event, including workspaces for Command Staff, Dispatchers, cache radios, radio towers, repeaters, satellite telephone, cellular broadband, HF radios, data networks, generators, and more. All teams were assigned to working groups. Each group, coordinated by a Communications Unit Leaders (COML), completed their assigned tasks and reported to the command center. Close proximity of all the units on the ILEAS

property provided for an opportunity to work together and learn from each other.

The first day included classroom learning and informational sessions on a variety of topics such as Standard Operating Procedures, FirstNet, cellular modems, WebEOC, and network storage. On the second day, everyone deployed and operated whatever communications equipment they brought. The intent was to test the ability of the various players to connect different communications systems as needed to provide services for almost any conceivable communications need. Teams were able to interconnect the communications equipment in the various vehicles in a variety of ways, proving the versatility of the teams and their resources.

IEMA's Acting Deputy Director Jennifer Ricker and Acting Director William Robertson would like to applaud the work of these teams as they worked together to learn from one another and plan for the day these skills may be needed.



Jim Page from ILEAS poses with Director William Robertson and Deputy Director Jennifer Ricker during a May 2018 "Plug & Play" training exercise.

FirstNet in Illinois

As we've seen in large-scale emergencies, such as a mass shooting and other major incidents, emergency responders' ability to use cell phones and cellular data service can be crippled by network congestion. It's imperative that public safety agencies can effectively communicate, access critical information, and transmit video for situational awareness and response coordination. For these first responders to conduct their mission, it is critical that they have access to information: Information that will direct them to the scene, inform them of the dangers, provide reference for solutions as well as provide overall command and control of the situation.

On Dec. 18, 2017, Governor Bruce Rauner signed the Opt-In letter with FirstNet. As a result, public safety professionals want to know what their agency's obligations are regarding the FirstNet public safety broadband cellular service. **There is no law, rule, obligation or requirement to sign up or use FirstNet service.** Opt-In simply means that FirstNet will provide service here in Illinois. It is the individual agency's decision as to what network provider they choose to use.

Considerations for your agency:

- FirstNet's mission is to provide nationwide coverage and a network that gives public safety priority over all other users on the network.
- Make sure your agency will receive the required level of coverage in the areas you operate. Hint: Ask the carriers to see their "In-Building" coverage maps. In-Building coverage is a more accurate representation of actual coverage public safety users will normally experience with devices inside vehicles.



- Different carriers might offer different features to public safety users, which can have an impact on the user experience. Choose the ones that best benefit your agency.
- If an agency decides to explore how public safety broadband cellular could benefit their agency, they need to test the service in their area. We encourage agencies to request demonstration devices from the carrier(s) and thoroughly test the service, the coverage, and anything else that would affect their decision to choose one particular carrier over another.
- Neither FirstNet nor any other carrier based push-to-talk (PTT) services are a viable replacement for the mission critical land mobile radio systems (LMR) two-way radios used by public safety today. Although there are some applications for cellular PTT, they are not public safety grade. Most experts in this area believe we are at least a decade away from being able to fully transit from LMR to cellular-based PTT networks.

Public safety agencies in Illinois are in a strong position in this situation, as there are many carriers competing for their public safety business. In today's competitive environment, negotiate hard to get the best possible cost for your agency.

Hometown Awards to Include Disaster Services Category

The Serve Illinois Commission currently is accepting applications for the Governor's Hometown Awards program. The program recognizes those who contributed to their community's quality of life through projects that had strong volunteer support, met a need and made a definitive impact.

The program includes six project categories, including Disaster Services/Public Safety. Projects such as training of citizens to be used in disaster preparedness, creation of a mitigation project to avoid future flooding damage, creating a public campaign to educate residents on what to do during a disaster, residents assisting first responders during an actual disaster, voluntary organizations coming together to help residents recover after a disaster, and other activities that fit into the disaster realm are applicable projects.

In 2017, Fulton County was recognized as a Project Winner for its work as a community to recover from a

2016 gas explosion in Canton that destroyed one building and damaged 66 others. The explosion rocked the heart of the community and affected its main business center. Volunteer organizations joined public safety agencies to ensure a quick response to this emergency; hence, ensuring minimal impact to residents, job loss and tax revenue.



The Hometown awards application is available at www.serve.illinois.gov. All applications are due on August 1, 2018. Additional information including a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), which also

contains application instructions, is available on the website.

The Serve Illinois Commission believes there are many deserving cities, counties, towns, townships and villages that deserve to be recognized for their work with volunteers. Please help the state recognize these projects by submitting an application.

On the Horizon: Training & Exercises

July 23 – 27: Earthquake/Terrorist Event Functional Exercise (Champaign and Chicago)

August 07: LaSalle Station IPRA Exercise

October 31: November 04, Earthquake Functional Exercise (Springfield)

December 04: Quad Cities Station IPRA Exercise



Registration Now Open!

22nd Annual IEMA Training Summit
September 4-6, 2018
Bank of Springfield Center
Springfield, IL

Learn More:

<https://iemasummit2018.pathable.com/>

There's still time for you to get involved!

**Sign up today to become a
Summit Sponsor or Exhibitor**

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More info:

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